

MINUTES

Minutes approved by the Springfield
Planning Commission: 5-4-2004

Springfield Planning Commission
Work Session
Springfield City Hall
Jesse Main Room
225 Fifth Street, Springfield

January 21, 2004
6 p.m.

PRESENT: Steve Moe, Chair; Jim Burford, David Cole, Shaver, William Carpenter, Lee Beyer, commissioners; Brian Barnett, Dan Brown, Bill Grile, Kitti Gale, Greg Mott, Mel Oberst, Al Peroutka, City of Springfield staff; Rebecca Gershaw, Greg Hyde, Bob Keefer, Willamalane Park, and Recreation staff.

1. Capital Improvement Plan

Al Peroutka City Engineer reviewed the current Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects. He said completed projects do not appear on the CIP list, as the CIP was a look forward.

Mr. Peroutka said the CIP reflected projects for which funding was proposed for programming from expected revenues over the next five years and did not reflect projects that had already received funding and/or were currently included in the adopted capital budget. He added there was currently a significant backlog of such projects.

Mr. Peroutka noted that the City of Springfield CIP projects totaled approximately \$15 million. Additionally, he said the Parkway project, totaling almost \$10 million and the Jasper extension totaling almost \$6 million, both of which were Lane County projects with some participation by the City of Springfield.

Mr. Peroutka observed that there were no Street Fund projects in the Fiscal 2003/2004 CIP. He noted that the City of Springfield had made progress in restoring a minimal level of preservation programming with funding made available through the local \$.03 per gallon gas tax, through the Oregon Transportation Investment Act (OTIA) III, and from a new higher level of revenue from the federally funded, regionally shared, Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding, totaling over \$1 million annually. This CIP provided over \$500,000 funding for capital maintenance for streets.

Mr. Peroutka referred to a wall map that illustrated the location of the proposed CIP projects. The projects on the list included: Laura Street Realignment, Martin Luther King Parkway, Martin Luther King Trunk Sewer, Harlow Pump Station Expansion, Franklin Boulevard Sewer and Drainage Crossings in Glenwood (a Council priority), Franklin Boulevard Sidewalks, Jasper Road Extension (Lane County Project), Jasper Trunk Line Sewer, South 32nd Street and Main Street Intersection Improvements, Mountaingate Drainage Project, and South 42nd Street Improvements Main Street to Jasper Road.

Mr. Peroutka said it had not been determined what Franklin Boulevard would ultimately look like, including whether bike lanes or Lane Transit District (LTD) Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) would be included; right of way issues; and, straightening the road.

In response to a question from Commissioner Beyer, Mr. Peroutka said discussions were underway regarding whether Franklin Boulevard would be moved. Mr. Peroutka noted that there had been conversations about a variety of options, including widening the road or the north and/or south sides or straightening the road. Mr. Peroutka added that \$500,000 CIP funds could be used to support a full National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process in evaluating environmental and social impact,

evaluating alternatives, and completing a public process, in preparation successfully competing for future ODOT or federal funding for the reconstruction and reconfiguration of Franklin Boulevard.

In response to a question from Commissioner Beyer, Mr. Peroutka said \$500,000 had been allocated for sidewalks and bike lanes, but sufficient funding was not available for underground utility construction. Mr. Peroutka added that underground utility construction would be considered in future planning. Commissioner Beyer emphasized that it would make sense to include underground utilities with the sidewalk and bike lane projects.

Mr. Barnett said the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) had developed a master plan for the Metropolitan Area. He said transportation planning efforts proposed for funding through this CIP included:

- Transportation Demand Management matching funds for City participation in regional demand management efforts, particularly in the Gateway area.
- Planning, design and implementation of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) improvements (that may be used as matching funding for potential State or federal grants).
- Planning and implementation of “wayfinding” improvements for vision impaired pedestrians. Mr. Barnett said the City had been able to respond to several requests to install a variety of forms of guidance at traffic signals at pedestrian crossings, and installation of raised pavement markings at pedestrian crossings.

Commissioner Beyer asked what was an Intelligent Transportation System. Mr. Barnett replied the terminology was coined at the federal level to utilize transportation systems in a more effective and useful manner. He said examples included timing traffic signals that moved traffic more efficiently rather than building more traffic lanes, and building more responsive traffic systems through a high degree of data input and data sharing among agencies.

In response to a question from Commissioner Beyer, Mr. Barnett replied that the signals at Mohawk Boulevard and Fourteenth Street and Martin Luther King Parkway were coordinated. Mr. Barnett added that traffic volumes had increased to a point where the existing timing plan was inadequate to support the capacity. Mr. Peroutka added that permissive left turn signals were under review for installation at those intersections.

Mr. Barnett said the Public Works Department had recently completed an analysis of some locations that were good options for protective permissive signals. He said that based upon ODOT standards for protective permissive signaling, none of the locations studied met the standards. He added that most of the studied locations warranted permissive only signaling, from a capacity perspective. A discussion about signaling options followed.

Referring to Schedule II, Capital Improvements Program Summary of Proposed Revenues, and Expenditures, in the agenda packet, Mr. Peroutka said all projects and revenues for five years were reflected in the summary. He added that the master plans showed the need for additional capacity that was not funded. He added that Transplan had identified millions of dollars in needs, much of which was not funded.

Mr. Brown stated that through the CIP, more projects would be completed if additional funding was available. He added that the City of Springfield did well overall. He noted that the area in most need of repair were streets preservation. He noted that a shortfall of \$1.6 million existed to fund overlay and slurry sealing projects to enable streets to reach their life expectancy. He added that a shortfall of \$600,000 existed in funding from the Lane County Road Fund. He said the Springfield infrastructure matched favorably with any infrastructure in the State.

Mr. Peroutka Public Works was currently replacing or rehabilitating 50 year old parts of the sewer system, in accordance with the planned schedule. He added that large investments had been made in the sewer

system during the past ten years, reflected in the CIP debt service, paid for through user fees approved by the City Council.

In response to a question from Commissioner Shaver, Mr. Brown said funding for maintenance and crack sealing was typically exhausted by the end of August. He added it would improve next year with implementation of the gas tax, which would have revenues of \$600,000 or more.

In response to a question from Commissioner Beyer regarding the Mohawk ramp and overpass, Commissioner Cole said ODOT staff was discussing the project.

Commissioner Shaver suggested advising the City Council that it was important to maintain existing infrastructure before building more. He remarked that the City Council should remove some projects from the CIP to provide funding for more adequate maintenance. He noted it would be difficult for the City Council to decline to accept 80/20 funding from the State.

Mr. Peroutka said he planned to provide information on projected maintenance costs for proposed CIP projects for City Council consideration. He observed there was more funding available through the Lane County Road Fund for maintenance.

Commissioner Carpenter asked what options were available to change roadway materials for increased longevity? Mr. Peroutka stated that concrete streets, although more costly to build than asphalt streets, were more cost effective in the long run. He noted that the asphalt industry was developing a perpetual pavement that was supposed to be more cost effective to maintain.

Commissioner Cole asked what was wood stave removal? Mr. Peroutka said it was the last remaining section of a wooden discharge line built during World War II, in the Millrace and Second Street area that eventually became part of the storm drain system inherited by the City. He noted that it was listed on the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as a potential concern

Commissioner Shaver, seconded by Commissioner Carpenter, moved to recommend approval of the 2004 – 2009 Capital Improvements Program as presented, with a recommendation to place greater emphasis on maintenance rather than new construction. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Willamalane Draft Park Recreational Comprehensive Plan

Kitti Gale Planner II introduced Bob Keefer, Superintendent of the Willamalane Park and Recreation District, Greg Hyde and Rebecca Gershaw, Willamalane Park and Recreation District staff.

Mr. Keefer thanked the Planning Commission for the opportunity to present the Willamalane Draft Park Recreational Comprehensive Plan. He said the staff had worked with citizens, City staff, and a technical advisory committee for two years to develop the draft plan. He said the plan was a peoples' plan that reflected the suggestions and ideas from the people. He added over 700 people responded to surveys and questionnaires, and participated in focus groups, to identify what kind of park and recreation system and what type of activities and facilities the community wanted. Mr. Keefer said the plan was built on the needs assessment conducted in 2003, to meet the needs of Springfield citizens during the next 20 years.

Mr. Keefer said the responsibility of the District was to ensure adequate funding was available to build new facilities and to maintain District existing and proposed new facilities. He said the District had great facilities in place in Springfield. He cited the two swim centers and the adult activity center as being among the best in the State. Mr. Keefer noted the need for a new community center, as identified in the Draft Plan.

Ms. Gershaw offered a PowerPoint presentation that illustrated the Draft Plan and the process used to develop the plan. Referring to the *Draft Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan*, she said Phase 3 of the

Plan was underway. She said the Project Management Team, Technical Advisory Committee, Citizen Advisory Committee, and Willamalane Board of Directors had reviewed and provided input on the Draft Plan. Staff would present an update to the Lane County Board of Commissioners on January 14 and the Springfield City Council on January 26. She said a public open house on the Draft Plan would take place on January 28, from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Memoria I Building Community Center.

Ms. Gershaw said after the draft plan was revised to reflect public comment, the Willamalane Park and Recreation District would adopt the plan in mid-March. She said the plan would be brought back to the Planning Commission for a recommendation to the City Council to adopt the plan as part of a refinement to the Eugene/Springfield Metropolitan Area General Plan.

Ms. Gershaw said the draft plan reflected the anticipated needs of the community for 20 years, including serving 26,000 more residents by 2022 and the need for acquisition of 500 additional acres of park land. She noted that the number one need identified through the survey and focus groups was the need for more walking and cycling trails.

Ms. Gershaw reiterated Ms. Keefer's suggestion that the downtown community center no longer met the community need, and would require replacement.

Ms. Gershaw stated that public feedback noted that the infrastructure should not be allowed to degrade, and that ongoing safety and Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliance was important. She added that it was important to keep up with additional maintenance needs and costs due to expansion.

Referring to Map 2, she noted that existing and proposed park and recreation resources were identified. Key acquisition and improvement sites were identified, including a special use park in Glenwood; a riverfront park along the river; a more fully developed community park at Lively Park; school park projects at most middle schools; and, natural area and neighborhood parks in the Jasper/Natron area...

Referring to Map 3, Ms. Gershaw said it illustrated existing and planned multi-use paths and bikeways. She said most of the projects were included in either the Springfield Bicycle Plan or TransPlan. She identified the Weyerhaeuser and Georgia-Pacific haul roads' locations.

Ms. Gershaw said the plan reflected a reality based 20 year vision of Willamalane Park and Recreation District, with a three-phase CIP. Phases 1 and 2 contain fifty percent of the projects. Phase 1 included approximately 35 projects, totaling \$6,776,000, scheduled for 2004 through 2009. Phase 2 included \$16 million of projects, including the need to pass a \$6 million bond measure, scheduled for 2010 through 2015.

In response to a question from Commissioner Burford, Mr. Mott said \$27,000 in Buford Park reflected projects adopted in the current five-year CIP, consisting of \$17,000 to install a pedestrian bridge across Cedar Creek, and \$5,000 each for the permit and miscellaneous park improvements. He added no funding was specifically identified for parking.

In response to a question from Commissioner Beyer, Mr. Keefer said the Memorial Building had reached the end of its design life, and needed to be replaced. Mr. Keefer said it could be used for a variety of purposes, and to gain administrative efficiency.

Mr. Oberst expressed concern about moving key facilities from the downtown area that depended upon those employees and visitors to support their businesses. Mr. Hyde concurred that the Memorial Building filled many needs.

Noting that one of the City Council goals was downtown revitalization, Mr. Oberst said it would be good to have the Willamalane staff patronizing downtown businesses and he urged the District to maintain downtown offices. He said the Downtown Plan identified parking as an important downtown need.

Ms. Gershaw noted that the location of proposed projects was preliminary and schematic. She said if a detailed site plan would be developed in conjunction with any future bond measure.

Mr. Hyde noted that the idea of a downtown civic center has been discussed several times. He said it would be smart to consider locating Willamalane and other government offices in downtown.

Ms. Gershaw said there was not sufficient funding to develop all of the proposed projects. She said the cost of phases one and two was about \$23 million, with the total project cost exceeding funding by \$27 million. She said a cursory list of potential additional funding sources had been identified. She added that additional operation costs would be \$137,000 for phase 1 and \$701,000 for phase 2. She noted that there was a need to keep pace with growth for maintenance. She said some options had been identified to fund additional operational costs, such as improving operational efficiencies, using more volunteers, postponing new capital projects and lowering parks maintenance standards. She added that the public had indicated strongly that it was not interested in lower maintenance standards.

Ms. Gershaw said the plan included a list of performance measures tied to goals, to enable the District to evaluate how it was doing as the plan was implemented. She said the intent was for the plan to be a living document, not sitting on a shelf.

In response to a question from Mr. Mott, Ms. Gershaw said a reserve fund was in place for improvements to the Adult Activity Center, the Lively Park Swim Center, and the Willamalane Park Swim Center. Additionally, funds were identified for additional parking.

Mr. Hyde identified recent improvements to the building, including roof replacement, new siding, and carpeting. Interior painting would occur in the near future. At the present time, HVAC and energy savings projects were under consideration.

Commissioner Shaver expressed appreciation for the opportunity for non-seniors to participate in some of the senior activities. Mr. Keefer said the lecture series, the rock and pottery shops, and computer lab, were available to non-seniors. He added resources were necessary to expand services.

Commissioner Beyer asked how much discussion had occurred regarding providing room for non-profit groups such as Kid Sports. Mr. Keefer said there was some limited staff participation in outreach to non-profit groups. Commissioner Beyer noted that although opportunities for kids had improved, the cost had increased. Mr. Keefer said it was challenging to serve the needs of so many similar groups competing for the same limited resources, citing Kid Sports, Little League, Babe Ruth, and Cal Ripkin, as examples.

In response to a question from Commissioner Carpenter about how planning occurred for "fad" sports, Mr. Hyde noted that "fad" sports were cyclical. He said frequently updating the plan addressed those changing demands. Mr. Keefer said the plan was scheduled for another review in five years. Ms. Gershaw added that staff worked with professionals who follow recreational trends around the country to provide advice on changes in the field. Citing the skateboard park as an example, Mr. Keefer said the District carefully considered spending several hundreds of thousands of dollars before making a decision to build the skateboard park.

Mr. Keefer noted that interest tennis, which was very keen 15 years ago, was diminishing. Mr. Hyde said that the District recently converted one tennis court to a half-court basketball court, due to identified changes in use.

The work session adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Recorded by Linda Henry)